harmful effects of soft cola drinks etc. and if so full details thereof and results of studies conducted abroad;

(b) whether Government have considered any Projects with overseas firms for setting up of soft drinks and other fast food, including health foods; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Scientific Studies conducted on the possible effects of soft drinks have revealed that consumption of soft drinks conforming to prescribed standards under Prevention of Food Standards under Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955 are unlikely to cause any harmful effects.

(b) As per the information of Ministry of Industry, foreign collaboration proposals are considered as per policies laid down by the Government from time to time.

(c) The details of all approved foreign colaboration showing the names of Indian and Foreign firms, items of manufacture and nature of collaboration are published on a quarterly basis by the Indian Investment Centre as a supplement to its Monthly News Letter. Copies of this publication are sent regularly to the Parliament Library.

Danger of additives in food preservations

2510. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state·

(a) whether Government are aware of the serious danger of preservatives, food colours, flavouring agents, flavour enhancers, acidifiers. alkalizers, emulsifiers, softners and other food additives used in our foods and if so, aproximate quantities and value thereof yearwise for last three years;

(b) whether Government have brought out any review or summary of dangers of additives to human health; and

(c) whether Government propose to ban TV/AIR advertisements of all foods containing any additives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Yes, Sir. Under the provisions of Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955, food additives like preservatives food colours, flavouring agents. flavour enhancers, acidifiers, emulsifiers etc. are permitted in specified food products within the safe limits keeping in view the technological necessity in the manufacture of food products. The quantity of food additives used in the country for last three years, is not available in this Ministry as record of production and use of food additives are not kept.

(b) Review of all the Food Additives allowed under the Rules is an ongoing process by experts. Periodical review is made by the Central Committee for Food Standards for taking appropriate measures.

(c) It is not considered necessary.

दिल्ली सर्किल में डाक व तार विभाग के विभागेत्तर कर्मचारी

2511. **श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव** : क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) दिल्ली सर्किल में, मंडल-वार कार्य कर रहे विभागेत्तर कर्मचारियों की संख्या कितनी है तथा आज की तारीख तक उनमें से प्रत्येक कर्मचारी द्वारा कितने वर्षों की सेवा पूरी कर ली गई है ;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि पोस्टमैन संवर्ग में नियमन के लिए विभागीय परीक्षा में सिर्फ नियमित ग्रुप 'डी' कर्मचारियों/पैकरों को ही वरीयता दी

जाती है जबकि अर्हक सेवा अवधि को पूरा करने वाले विभागेत्तर कर्मचारियों को यह सुविधा नहीं दी जाती है ;

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि इसके फलस्वरूप विभागेत्तर कर्मचारी 35-35 वर्ष की अर्हक आयु पार कर जाते हैं और इस तरह से उन्हें आजीवन विभागेत्तर कर्मचारी के रूप में कार्य करते रहना पड़ता है ; और

(घ) यदि उपर्युक्त भागों (ख) और (ग) का उत्तर 'हां' हो, तो क्या सरकार पोस्टमैन और ग्रुप 'डी' के कर्मचारियों के सभी पदों को विभागेत्तर कर्मचारियों में से भरने का विचार रखती है ?

संचार मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सन्तोष मोहन देव) : (क) अनुबंध के अनुसार [देखिए परिशिष्ट CXLI अनुपत्र संख्या 118]

(ख) और (ग) जी नहीं । पोस्टमैनों के संवर्गग में खाली पदों को विभागीय और बाहरी उम्मीदवारों के बीच बराबर-बराबर बांटा जाता है। 35 वर्ष (अनुसूचित जाति/अनुसूचित जनजाति के लिए 40 वर्ष) से कम आयु वाले अतिरिक्त विभागीय एजेंटों को बाहरी उम्मीदवारों की तुलना में प्राथमिकता दी जाती है अगर वरिष्ठता के आधार पर उनका चयन किया जाता है बशर्ते कि वे लिखित परीक्षा में उत्तीर्ण हो जाएं।

(घ) उपर्युक्त भाग (ग) के उत्तर को देखते हुए प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता।

Adulteration of Ayurvedic drugs

2512. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item that appeared in the 'The Hindustan Times' of 28th December, 1986 under the caption "Most Ayurvedic drugs found adulterated";

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government are taking to check adulteration of drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The news item relates to adulteration of raw materials of certain samples of medicinal plants used in manufacture of Ayurvedic drugs.

(c) Under the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 the raw material used in the preparation of Ayurvedic Drugs should be genuine and properly identified. This is to be ensured by the State Drugs Control Administration under the above Act.

Production of coaches by coach factory at Kapurthalla

2513. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 329 given in the Rajya Sabha on 25th February, 1987 and state:

(a) whether the proposed coach factory at Kapurthala in Punjab is to produce plastic coaches instead of wooden coaches for the Railways; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and how far it will be useful in comparison to wooden carriages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Factory will initially be producing steel bodied coaches of the existing design. Adoption of advanced technology for producing steel bodied coaches to a new design is also under consideration and the factory will gradually switch over to the production of coaches to the new design.